

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 DPW-01 IO-03 EUR-10

AID-10 PRS-01 RSR-01 /080 W  
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R 221150 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3606

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11264

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HE, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 22, 1973

FOL SENT ACTION FM CANTHO AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 488

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 22, 1973

SUMMARY: MR IV MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED RELATIVELY PLACID JUNE 21.

FOUR MORE DELTA PROVINCE CHIEFS ARE SLATED FOR REMOVAL.

POLISH AND HUNGARIAN ICCS DELEGATES REFUSED TO INVESTIGATE  
RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: ( A ) DELTA COMBAT REMAINED LOW  
JUNE 21 WITH MR IV REPORTING ONLY 30 INCIDENTS. FIGHTING  
HAS DIMINISHED IN EVERY PROVINCE. EVEN CHUONG THIEN  
REPORTED ONLY 14 SCATTERED INCIDENTS, THE LOWEST IN A  
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MONTH. OF THE 30 ALLEGED DELTA- WIDE CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, FOUR WERE GROUND ATTACKS, 18 ATTACKS BY FIRE, FIVE HARASSMENTS, TWO ACTS OF TERRORISM, AND ONE AMBUSH. RVNAF LOST 17 KILLED AND 112 WOUNDED AND CLAIMED 21 VC/ NVA DEAD.

(B) DEPUTY 9 TH ARVN DIVISION COMMANDER COL NGUYEN DINH VINH TOLD THE CHAU DOC VICE CONSUL THAT HE EXPECTS THE NVA TO OBSERVE THE CEASEFIRE IN HONG NGU. HE BELIEVES THEY ARE TOO WEAK TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE. VINH SAID CADRE OF THE NVA 207 TH REGIMENT ARE ATTEMPTING TO PROPAGANDIZE HIS SOLDIERS AND ARRANGE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE ARVN AND GVN UNITS. HE SAID HE HAS STRICT ORDERS NOT TO FIRE ARTILLERY BUT TO ANSWER ANY NVA ATTACK IN KIND.

(C) TEN ADDITIONAL REGIONAL FORCE BATTALIONS ARE CURRENTLY REINFORCING GVN TROOPS IN CHUONG THIEN. THEY ARE THE 421, 439, AND 456 FROM AN GIANG, 443 AND 444 FROM VINH LONG, 495, 497, AND 425 FROM CHAU DOC, AND 428 AND 477 FROM PHONG DINH. THESE UNITS SUPPLEMENT THE FIVE CHUONG THIEN RF BATTALIONS, TWO RANGER BATTALIONS, AND FOUR REGIMENTS OF THE 21 ST ARVN DIVISION CURRENTLY CAMPAIGNING IN THE PROVINCE (CAN THO 0470). MR IV DEPUTY COMMANDER NGUYEN THANH HOANG JUNE 19 SAID HE EXPECTED NO ADDITIONAL RF UNITS TO BE SENT TO CHUONG THIEN.

2. GVN ACTIVITIES: THE VICE CONSUL IN CHAU DOC WHO REPORTED THE PROVINCE CHIEF CHANGE IN CHUONG THIEN JUNE 21 (CAN THO 0484) NOW REPORTS FROM HIS SAME RELIABLE SOURCE FOUR MORE IMMINENT CHANGES. THE VINH LONG, VINH BINH, PHONG DINH, AND CHAU DOC PROVINCE CHIEFS WILL ALL BE MOVED SHORTLY. VINH LONG PROVINCE CHIEF COL TRAN VAN THI HAS AROUSED ENMITY IN THE PROVINCE FOR HIS HEAVYHANDED ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CAP TIEN PARTY. THE VINH BINH PROVINCE CHIEF, COL NGUYEN HUU KIEM, WHOSE WIFE WAS KILLED JUNE 20 BY A VC MINE (CAN THO 0484), IS SAID TO BE CORRUPT, A REPUTATION HIS WIFE SHARED. PHONG DINH PROVINCE CHIEF COL LE NGOC DAY APPEARS A WELL- MEANING MAN BUT IS A WEAK ADMINISTRATOR AND HABITUALLY SEEMS OVERWHELMED BY HIS NUMEROUS RESPONSIBILITIES. OF THE PROVINCE CHIEFS WHO ARE REPORTEDLY GOING, ONLY CHAU DOC PROVINCE CHIEF COL NGUYEN DANG PHUONG HAS TURNED IN A CREDITABLE PERFORMANCE. HE HAS

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BEEN AT HIS POSITION FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS AND SERVED IN CHAU DOC IN A LOWER CAPACITY FOR THE FIVE PREVIOUS YEARS. HE IS THEREFORE DUE FOR A CHANGE.

3. VC ACTIVITIES: (A) ACCORDING TO A BAC LIEU HOI CHANH, WHO RALLIED JUNE 20, LOCAL VC HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT CEASEFIRE II REPRESENTS A DEFEAT FOR THE AMERICANS, BUT THAT THE

VC MUST CONTINUE FIGHTING UNTIL FINAL VICTORY IS WON.  
IN A JUNE 18 MEETING IN KHANH HOA VILLAGE, VINH CHAU  
DISTRICT, CHAIRED BY THE PHU LOI I BATTALION COMMANDER,  
THE VC WERE TOLD THAT THE FIGHTING WOULD CONTINUE AS  
LONG AS PRESIDENT THIEU FOLLOWS AMERICAN POLICY. BAC  
LIEU GVN AUTHORITIES RELAYED THE HOI CHANH' S TESTIMONY  
TO THE BAC LIEU PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE. THE BA XUYEN  
VICE CONSUL, HOWEVER, THINKS THE STORY MAY BE A GVN PLANT  
DESIGNED TO DISCREDIT THE VC.

(B) VC LEAFLETS DISTRIBUTED IN TAN CHAU DISTRICT, CHAU  
DOC, REVEAL THAT THE VIET CONG HAVE DROPPED THE TERM  
" PROVISIONAL" FROM THEIR TITLE AND NOW REFER TO THEMSELVES  
AS THE " REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBWC OF  
SOUTHERN VIET NAM". THE SEMANTIC CHANGE SUGGESTS THAT THE  
VC HAVE CROSSED ANOTHER THRESHOLD IN THEIR CON-  
TINUING CAMPAIGN TO PORTRAY THEMSELVES AS THE LEGITIMATE  
GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIET NAM.

4. ICCS: POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATES DECLINED TO  
INVESTIGATE TWO RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENTS ON THE FAMILIAR  
GROUNDS OF INSUFFICIENT SECURITY. THE POLGARIANS REFUSED  
TO LOOK INTO THE JUNE 12 MINING OF AN OPEN AIR THEATRE  
NEAR CA MAU, WHICH TOOK A HEAVY TOLL OF CIVILIANS, EVEN  
THOUGH THE SITE IS ONLY FIVE KILOMETERS FROM THE PROVINCE  
CAPITAL. POLGARIANS BASED IN VI THANH REFUSED TO INVESTI-  
GATE THE JUNE 18 ASSASSINATION OF A PHONG DINH DEPUTY  
HAMLET CHIEF AND HIS FAMILY ( CAN THO 0468), ALTHOUGH THE  
REGION VII GVN/ JMC CHIEF GUARANTEED PERFECT SECURITY.  
WISNER UNQUOTE  
WHITEHOUSE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS  
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